

South Carolina Department of Agriculture

Hugh Weathers, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 4, 2008

Weathers urges owners to vaccinate horses from mosquito borne diseases

COLUMBIA, SC — Because rain and standing water from tropical storms could potentially explode the mosquito population, South Carolina agriculture officials today urged horse owners in the state to make sure that their horses are vaccinated against West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE).

South Carolina horse owners need to check with their veterinarians to verify that their animals have been vaccinated against the mosquito-borne diseases and to make sure that the shots are up to date.

“Our mosquito populations are increasing dramatically, especially in areas hit by the tropical storm, and horses are at risk of contracting these diseases if they have not received their shots and boosters,” Hugh Weathers, South Carolina’s Commissioner of Agriculture said.

The Commissioner cautioned, however, that no amount of mosquito control can eliminate all mosquitoes and recommends that individuals take precautions to minimize their exposure. They include getting rid of standing water on property, wearing long sleeves and pants and using a mosquito repellent containing DEET.

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